

Committee:	Date:
West Ham Park	4 December 2017
Subject: Superintendent's Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Parks and Gardens	For Information
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>This report provides an update to Members of the West Ham Park Committee on management and operational activities at West Ham Park since October 2017</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report 	

Main Report

Budget and Personnel

1. The budget for West Ham Park is currently in line with anticipated expenditure for this time of year, with the exception of income from property which is currently higher than anticipated. This is due to the rent review of The Cedars yielding a higher than anticipated increase following protracted negotiations. This income is being used to fund fees and charges relating to the first phase of the Playground Improvement Project.
2. The apprentice gardener is settling in well and will begin college in January 2018. Recruitment is currently taking place for the vacant gardener position.

Community, Volunteering, Outreach and events

3. Wild East Project: Autumnal craft activities have been the focus for the wild east team with hedgehogs formed from oak leaves and pine cone bird feeders being a big success with local children. A 'Wild East Explorers leaflet' is also being developed for the park. It will contain a map on one side showing important historical and ecological features of the park, with the reverse showing larger illustrations and short descriptions. The leaflet will be given out by volunteers during the Wild East Trike sessions.
4. Wild Schools: The whole of Elmhurst primary school (690 pupils) had an 'escape to the park day' during which time they were carrying out geography based activities looking at the history and biodiversity of the park. Gallion's

Primary school have also been exploring the garden and created mini beast habitats in the vegetable garden, with a total of 90 children taking part.

5. Friends of West Ham Park: The Bat Walk on 22nd September attracted 25 members of the public. The bats were few but most people saw or heard them. After the event was over the friends had more activity including picking up evidence of Brown long-eared bat. This is the second most common bat in the UK but it is the first time one has been detected one in the Park. The friends busy autumn season has continue with twelve volunteers working in the wildlife garden on the 29th October, when the group planted aquatic plants in the newly refurbished pond and helped with general garden maintenance. The 5th November brought a fine day and over 100 local people and their families to the Leaf pile event. Remaining events for 2017 are:
 - a. 22nd November 6pm – Stargazing
 - b. 8th December – Park in the Dark and Moon Watch
6. Wildlife Garden: As mentioned above the pond in the wildlife garden at the rear of East lodge has been renovated, with a new liner added and a new pond dipping platform. The Park Manager has been working with the Wild Schools Officer to finalise the report for the extension of the garden which will be brought to this Committee in February.

Operational activities

7. Football Fair: Upton Park Football club held a commemorative match in the park on the 5th November to commemorate the first game played in the FA cup. The match attracted 65 spectators, but created much social media interest. The game was also featured on Talk Sport radio. Upton Park beat Clapham Rover 5 – 1.

Property Matters

8. Nursery update: The Nursery Project board team met with the appointed consultants on the 1st November to talk through the project. The consultants are working up more detailed options and it is anticipated that a workshop with the Options Review Group will be held early in 2018.
9. 240 and 242 Upton Lane Lodges: The existing tenants are still resident at both properties and have agreed to rent increases of £50 per annum. This came into effect from the 1st October 2017.

Appendices

- None

Lucy Murphy

West Ham Park Manager

E: lucy.murphy@cityoflondon.gov.uk

T: 020 8475 7104